

# STOP TUITION HIKE

## N.C. students occupy Board meeting

By Ben Carroll  
Chapel Hill, N.C.

More than 200 students from across North Carolina poured into the town of Chapel Hill on Feb. 10 for a spirited demonstration against huge tuition hikes. The North Carolina Defend Education Coalition organized it. The University of North Carolina Board of Governors, which oversees the 17-campus university system, met that day to vote on tuition hikes of more than 10 percent for most schools. After a march that clogged up rush-hour traffic, students brought the demonstration inside the main building's lobby, drowning out board members with chants and twice interrupting the meeting with mic checks. Later, students took over the BOG's meeting and convened a "People's Board of Education."

Students began gathering at 8 a.m. in the central part of UNC Chapel Hill's campus. There, the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, N.C. NAACP president, spoke to them as they prepared to march. The students aimed to connect the struggle against tuition hikes to the larger fight to stop the state from balancing the budget crisis on the backs of workers and students.

The march then set off for the BOG meeting, tying up traffic for more than 30 minutes as the demonstrators took over both of the eastbound lanes of the busy road. After they arrived at the main building, students packed the lobby. They went past the cops who tried to prevent them from entering the building while their chants of "Hey hey, ho ho, tuition hikes have got to go!" and "No cuts! No fees! Education must be free!" echoed through the halls.

Taken by the electrifying, militant spirit of the demonstrators, Rev. Barber addressed the rally in the lobby, in the "mic-check" style popularized by Occupy Wall Street. He said: "We are right to challenge these cuts by the General Assembly. We are the generation that refuses to accept going backwards. Let us be clear. This does not end here today. This is the beginning of a fresh, new, empowered student movement in North Carolina and in this nation."

Throughout the rally, students kept up the thunderous chants and speeches. Both the demonstrators outside the doors and those mic checking inside the BOG's meeting disrupted the board's session several times.

Andrew Payne, a former N.C. State student body president and current Association of Student Governments president, was arrested after he left his seat inside the board's meeting room and then tried to re-enter. Police threw him to the ground and dragged him

*Continued on page 6*

### Labor on the Move

#### THEN & NOW

Tomato workers win

Immigrants resist in

Arizona California 5



### END FORECLOSURES

What 'mortgage relief'?

Milwaukee: 'Moratorium Now!' 7

### ATLANTA

### Actions oppose AT&T layoffs

Simultaneous "occupations" took place at AT&T's office tower in midtown Atlanta on Feb. 13 to protest layoffs, union busting and corporate greed. Around noon, one set of protesters entered the expansive ground-floor lobby and sat down in a circle, declaring their intention to stay until AT&T rescinded plans to lay off hundreds of skilled workers who install and repair landline phone service. Outside the building, on the sidewalk fronting busy West Peachtree Street, 15 tents were quickly set up and some 70 sign-carrying demonstrators stationed themselves on the steps leading to the building.

These bold actions are the result of joint efforts among Communication Workers Local 3204, whose members face losing their jobs, and activists with Jobs with Justice, Occupy Atlanta, American Friends Service Committee and others.

AT&T is one of the largest and most profitable companies in the U.S. Its CEO, Randall Stephenson, was paid more than \$27 million last year. Still the telecommunications giant wants to lay off hundreds of workers.

A mass rally is planned for Feb. 14. Go to workers.org for updates.

— Dianne Mathiowetz

### CHAPEL HILL, N.C.



Students resist attacks on education inside and outside Board of Governors meeting in North C.arolina.

PHOTO: KALEY FRY

### Subscribe to Workers World

4 weeks trial \$4 1 year subscription \$30

Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program.

For more information: workers.org/supporters/  
212.627.2994 www.workers.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Workers World Newspaper

55 W. 17th St. #5C, NY, NY 10011



PHOTO: PHILIP TIPPETT



# Contradictions in capitalism

Following are excerpts from a talk given by Workers World Party organizer Richard Kossally at a WWP forum in New York City on Feb. 3. Read more of this talk at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org).

Out of feudal society arose the bourgeoisie, a new class that was to dominate society.

The bourgeoisie came out of a privileged middle layer that developed in feudal society.

For a time the conflicting modes of feudal and capitalist production existed side by side, but one had to win out. The capitalist mode of production requires the freedom of capital. This was incompatible with feudal ties to the land, with the secrecy of the trade guilds, and with the general organization of feudal society.

Before the emergence of the capitalist mode of production, products were made from start to finish on an individual basis. As manufacture was introduced, the old mode of production fell by the wayside.

The individual producer could not compete and had no choice but to become a wage worker.

With the constant upgrading of machinery characterized by capitalism, the product of the individual worker decreased even more in market value, not because the quality of the product produced was poorer, but because it required too much labor time as compared to the social product of the factory.

Under capitalism, production became socialized. That is, many workers hired by a capitalist and their collective labor, combined within an establishment with a definite production plan, produce useful commodities for exchange in order to make a profit for the capitalist. None of the products that are produced by the workers belong to them; they all belong to the capitalist. The workers receive a fraction of the value of what their labor produced in the form of wages.

This is one of the major contradictions within capitalism: the individual capitalist appropriates to himself or herself that which was produced socially by many workers. The worker is a wage slave. The product of his or her labor belongs to another. The wage of the worker in general is just enough for him or her and his or her family to make it to the next payday. He or she is a wage worker for life.

The profit of the capitalist, on the other hand, serves to further enslave the worker. Some of it will be used to further revolutionize the means of production, by investing it in better and/or more machines to expand the capitalist's enterprise, and still have enough left to live very high on the hog.

In whatever industry, the capitalists who produce the same or similar thing engage in fierce competition and always try to undersell each another. They use different tactics to cheapen the products that the workers produce. They buy more sophisticated manufacturing machines, and they intensify the exploitation of their workforce by making the workers work harder and/or longer.

The constant perfecting of machinery also displaces workers, as fewer workers are needed with the new machinery. As Frederick Engels said, "The very product of the worker is turned into an instrument for his subjugation." The threat of replacing workers is a very powerful tool that the capitalists possess. They use this threat as downward pressure on the wages of the employed and to extract as much as they can out of each worker. So under capitalism, the increased productivity of the worker leads to still further exploitation.

### Anarchy built into capitalist production

It is necessary for the capitalists to drop the price of the product in order to outsell their competition. But if prices



WW PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

Richard Kossally

are lowered, then many more items have to be produced and sold for the capitalist to maintain or increase his or her profits. Production soon outpaces consumption, as this competition eventually leads to more products on the market than can be sold at a profit.

If the capitalist has more items than can be sold profitably, then factories are closed and the workers laid off, left idle and without income. They cannot buy back the products they have made. There is a protracted stagnation until the market glut eases, the excess products are finally sold off, and production picks up again. This state of overproduction is the result of what we communists refer to as the anarchy of production.

The individual capitalist will very accurately figure out how much raw material and machinery are needed and how many workers to exploit in order to have so much end product, but they have no general plan for meeting the needs of society. Their only goals are profit and survival.

The competition that did away with the feudal mode of production has turned into competition between capitalists. It ever intensifies, and the weaker ones are always under threat of ruin. This, however, is not the kind of ruin that the workers face. A capitalist enterprise might be absorbed by a stronger enterprise or have to close shop and have its capital employed somewhere else. In any case, the ruin of any capitalist is not worth the shedding of any worker's tears.

The system itself is unstable. These competing capitalists are driven by an underlying law of capitalism — expand or die. At a time of protracted stagnation the stronger capitalists absorb the weaker ones. The suffering of the workers intensifies.

The capitalists that survive these cyclical crises and emerge as victors are fewer in number and bigger and stronger — monstrous beasts that further exploit workers' labor power. So the anarchy in production in capitalist society leads to monopoly. Today, the capitalist class, through just a few hundred banks, corporations and other institutions, controls the commerce of the entire world.

### Irrational system creating its gravediggers

Capitalism was a dialectical inevitability in the evolution of human society. Previous social systems developed slowly. Capitalism has developed the means of production very rapidly, but in a relatively short time has outlived any usefulness. Capitalism cannot absorb the masses of unemployed workers. It has reached a point where there is now a new situation: We are living in the era of the jobless recovery.

These contradictions of capitalism are inherent in the system itself: Capitalist competition inevitably leads to crisis. These contradictions cannot be done away with within the bounds of the capitalist system. They occur independently, outside the will and control of the capitalists themselves.

Capitalism is not a rational system. Capitalists serve no necessary function in present society and are responsible for just about all the problems of society. The atrocities committed against the planet in their reckless pursuit of riches are mind boggling.

*Continued on page 3*

## WORKERS WORLD this week...

### ★ In the U.S.

Stop tuition hikes .....	1
Actions oppose AT&T layoffs .....	1
Contradictions in capitalism .....	2
Book signing party pays tribute to Pam Africa .....	3
The case of The Quitman 10 + 2 .....	3
Solidarity against anti-gay attack in Atlanta .....	3
Civil Rights Pioneer: 'We can't let up' .....	4
The real story of the Tuskegee Airmen .....	4
Tomato workers win contract with Trader Joe's .....	5
Pacific Steel workers fight back .....	5
Union-busting hidden by FAA .....	5
On the picket line .....	5
The Occupy that won the union .....	6
One year after Wisc. takeover .....	6
'Mortgage relief' deal won't stop one foreclosure .....	7
Occupy movement: 'Moratorium now!' .....	7
All out to free Lynne Stewart! .....	8
Behind Chrysler's Super Bowl hype, it's half-pay time .....	10

### ★ Around the world

Romanian workers fight cuts, prefer socialism .....	8
Cuban Five heroes fight on for freedom .....	8
Workers in Greece battle bosses' austerity .....	9
300,000 protest austerity in Lisbon .....	9
Libyans fight back against U.S.-NATO puppet regime .....	11
Army, Muslim Brotherhood, U.S. jockeying for Egypt rule .....	11
The frame-up of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui .....	11

### ★ Editorials

Defend Syria against imperialism .....	10
Bishops vs. women .....	10

### ★ Noticias En Español

Manifestantes exigen: 'NO GUERRA EN IRÁN' .....	12
---	----

### Workers World

55 West 17 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: [ww@workers.org](mailto:ww@workers.org)  
Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)  
Vol. 54, No. 6 • Feb. 16, 2012  
Closing date: Feb. 8, 2012  
Editor: Deirdre Griswold  
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk  
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell,  
Leslie Feinberg, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead,  
Gary Wilson  
West Coast Editor: John Parker  
Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe,  
Greg Butterfield, Jaimeson Champion, G. Dunkel,  
Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales,  
Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash,  
Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette,  
Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac  
Technical Staff: Sue Davis, Shelley Ettinger,  
Bob McCubbin, Maggie Vascassenno  
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez,  
Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Michael Martinez,  
Carlos Vargas  
Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

Copyright © 2011 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org).

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at [www.workers.org/email.php](http://www.workers.org/email.php).

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor,  
New York, N.Y. 10011.

## JOIN US

Workers World Party (WWP) fights for socialism and engages in struggles on all the issues that face the working class & oppressed peoples — Black & white, Latino/a, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women & men, young & old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed, undocumented & students. If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

### National Office

55 W. 17 St.  
New York, NY 10011  
212.627.2994  
[wwp@workers.org](mailto:wwp@workers.org)

### Atlanta

P.O. Box 5565  
Atlanta, GA 30307  
404.627.0185  
[atlanta@workers.org](mailto:atlanta@workers.org)

### Baltimore

c/o Solidarity Center  
2011 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
443.909.8964  
[baltimore@workers.org](mailto:baltimore@workers.org)

### Boston

284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617.522.6626  
Fax 617.983.3836  
[boston@workers.org](mailto:boston@workers.org)

### Buffalo, N.Y.

367 Delaware Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.883.2534  
[buffalo@workers.org](mailto:buffalo@workers.org)

### Chicago

27 N. Wacker Dr. #138  
Chicago, IL 60606  
[chicago@workers.org](mailto:chicago@workers.org)

### Cleveland

P.O. Box 5963  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
216.738.0320  
[cleveland@workers.org](mailto:cleveland@workers.org)

### Denver

[denver@workers.org](mailto:denver@workers.org)

### Detroit

5920 Second Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313.459.0777  
[detroit@workers.org](mailto:detroit@workers.org)

### Durham, N.C.

331 W. Main St., Ste. 408  
Durham, NC 27701  
919.322.9970  
[durham@workers.org](mailto:durham@workers.org)

### Houston

P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713.503.2633  
[houston@workers.org](mailto:houston@workers.org)

### Los Angeles

1905 Rodeo Rd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018  
[la@workers.org](mailto:la@workers.org)  
323.515.5870

### Milwaukee

[milwaukee@workers.org](mailto:milwaukee@workers.org)

### Philadelphia

P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610.931.2615  
[phila@workers.org](mailto:phila@workers.org)

### Pittsburgh

[pittsburgh@workers.org](mailto:pittsburgh@workers.org)

### Rochester, N.Y.

585.436.6458  
[rochester@workers.org](mailto:rochester@workers.org)

### San Diego

P.O. Box 33447  
San Diego, CA 92163  
619.692.0355  
[sandiego@workers.org](mailto:sandiego@workers.org)

### San Francisco

2940 16th St., #207  
San Francisco  
CA 94103  
415.738.4739  
[sf@workers.org](mailto:sf@workers.org)

### Tucson, Ariz.

[tucson@workers.org](mailto:tucson@workers.org)  
**Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 57300  
Washington, DC 20037  
[dc@workers.org](mailto:dc@workers.org)



## PHILADELPHIA

# Book signing party pays tribute to Pam Africa

By Jamila K. Wilson  
Philadelphia

On Feb. 5, over a hundred people gathered at Dowling's Palace — the colloquial watering hole in the heart of North Philadelphia — to hear from one half of the dynamic duo, Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, about the journey he had collaborating with Mumia Abu-Jamal, who at the time of writing their book, "The Classroom and The Cell," was sitting on death row.

The event was chaired by Dr. Anthony Monteiro, an African-American Studies professor at Temple University, who opened the program with a profound and moving tribute to Pam Africa for her tireless work and dedication to Mumia Abu-Jamal's freedom and the fight to abolish the death penalty.

"Pam Africa is a figure that history must and will recognize. ... This daughter of the working masses, whose roots are amongst the working poor of North Philadelphia, is an international leader in the fight for human rights," Monteiro told those gathered.

The tribute served as a platform that continued throughout the event, celebrating the unwavering fortitude of women in the movement — typically unsung heroes who have been regulated to footnotes of historical movements and human rights struggles.

"Pam has led a movement that has won

a victory no one thought that was possible, getting Mumia off death row and having the death penalty overthrown," Monteiro stated.

The presence of female leaders within the movement was very apparent at the book signing event. Theresa Shoatz, daughter of Russell "Maroon" Shoatz, shared a heartfelt letter from her father — a long-time political prisoner — about his recent visit with Mumia. For three days after Mumia's release from death row, Mumia and Shoatz walked the prison yard sharing wisdom with one another for an hour each day.

Rachel Wolkenstein, a longtime supporter and legal representative for Abu-Jamal, provided an insider's account of his release from restrictive housing into general population. As a "condition for his release," Mumia was told he had to sign a security agreement which stated that because he was "a security risk," if he did one insubordinate thing he would be sent back to the hole. Mumia refused to sign it.

Unbeknownst to him, while he was seeking to negotiate a counter agreement, the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and other supporters held a press conference in Philadelphia and then drove to Camp Hill, Pa., where they presented a petition to prison authorities with over 5,000 signatures demanding Mumia's release into general population at SCI-Mahanoy.



Pam Africa and Theresa Shoatz.

WWW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Ramona Africa, the only adult survivor of the 1985 state terror attack on the MOVE compound, which killed five children and six adults, gave a detailed update on the national organizing efforts for the April 24 "Occupy the Justice Department" actions in Washington to demand the release of Mumia and all political prisoners and the end to mass incarceration.

She shared that momentum for the event is extremely strong with a number of high profile public figures, including Amiri Baraka, Danny Glover, and M1 of Dead Prez, signing on to participate in the protest and demonstration.

## Restrictive housing has to go

During his visits with Mumia to collaborate on their book, one thing that disturbed Dr. Marc Lamont Hill was the torturous condition of Mumia's being denied the ability to touch another human being for thirty years. "Restrictive housing has to be taken down. His case represents millions around the world. We are fighting to liberate all political prisoners."

## In the Pittsburgh section of Atlanta

# Solidarity protest against anti-gay attack

Atlanta, Feb. 11 — Blustery, frigid winds buffeted the crowd gathered in support of Brandon White, a 20-year-old gay man whose videotaped beating at the hands of reputed gang members outside a corner store shocked millions of viewers nationwide. Just a week earlier, the slight youth was viciously attacked by three young men, who used anti-gay slurs as they punched and kicked him repeatedly, while two others videotaped the assault.

At the support rally, more than 100 people from the Atlanta neighborhood of Pittsburgh, elected officials including Rep. John Lewis, and members of LGBTQ and other activist organizations strongly affirmed that anti-LGBTQ violence will not be tolerated in this community.

The Pittsburgh area, like other sections of Atlanta, has been devastated by home foreclosures and high unemployment. Dozens of boarded-up and abandoned houses can be found within sight of the corner store, the scene of six murders in recent years, according to neighborhood activists.

Founded in 1883 as an African-American housing area in segregated Atlanta, community elders remember when Pittsburgh was populated by working-class families with men employed by the railroads and related industries. Located

Hill also talked about the humanity of Mumia. "The thing that struck me the most about Mumia was not that he was so serious, but that he is human. He is so gentle."

Other speakers at the program included Michael Coard, Philadelphia attorney and activist; Sandy Jones, with the Campaign to End the Death Penalty; Val Jones, sister of the late Victoria Jones, who was a witness for the prosecution at Mumia's "trial" due to police coercion but later recanted her testimony; Alicia Amaro, a cousin of Abu-Jamal's spouse, Wadiya Jamal; Malcolm Shabazz, grandson of Malcolm X; and Pam Africa. They all shared their insights and experiences with Mumia's case.

In his closing remarks, when recounting a visit he had with Abu-Jamal, Shabazz quoted the great Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh, "When the prison gates are open the real dragon will fly out."

For those interested in getting involved in the local, national and international organizing efforts for the April 24 action, contact onamovellja@aol.com. □

## Voting rights threatened in Georgia

# The case of The Quitman 10+2

By Adriane Harden

Not many people know about The Quitman 10+2, all African Americans.

Quitman is a small town of about 5,000 people — 67 percent African-American — in rural South Georgia, not far from the Florida state line. A few years ago, a group of citizens, tired of having no voice in their community, decided to go out and encourage residents to exercise their right to vote. Going door-to-door, they were successful with voter registration and education. Hundreds became new voters and engaged in the political life of their community. Three candidates were chosen to run for two School Board positions and one County Commission seat. Relying heavily on advance voting and voting via absentee ballot, the three African Americans beat white incumbents in the Democratic primary. The losers entered as write-in candidates in the November 2010 general election but lost again.

In Georgia, there are no restrictions on who can use an absentee ballot, and advance voting provided more flexibility

for casting a ballot. By employing these two alternate methods of voting, many whose work schedules or family responsibilities had hindered them from voting in the past were encouraged to express their view. The balance of power on the School Board was altered and an African-American educator, Dr. Nancy Dennard, was named chair of the Board. Upset by the outcome, the local district attorney ordered an investigation by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Shortly after the newly elected members took office, on Dec. 21, 2010, 10 people, including Dr. Dennard and the other successful candidates, were arrested and charged with alleged unlawful possession of ballots that favored the board members in the 2010 Brooks County School Board election. Five hundred people kept vigil at the jail until they were released.

Since their arrest in December 2010, they have not been indicted and have not heard anything else from the district attorney's office. A year later, two more African Americans were charged with voter fraud.

On Jan. 10, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal suspended three of the African-American Brooks County School Board members, by way of an executive order. These members have not been convicted of anything, much less voter fraud.

The suspension returns the Brooks County School Board to a white majority, effectively dismissing the results of the election.

The Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials will hold their winter conference on Feb. 24-26 in Quitman and have planned a march and rally on the courthouse to demand the charges be dropped and the suspension of their terms be lifted.

For more information, please contact Adriane Harden at 678-653-2012 or email amharden@gmail.com □

*Continued from page 2*

My favorite contradiction of this rotten system is this: By constantly revolutionizing the means of production, communication and commerce, the capitalists have created a massive world proletariat. This class, our class, will be their undoing. They have created their own gravediggers. The historical task of the proletariat is the abolishing of capitalism and the construction of socialism.

There has to be revolutionary change and there has never been a revolution without a revolutionary party. Welcome to Workers World.

The entire talk can be seen at [www.workers.tv](http://www.workers.tv).

— Dianne Mathiowetz



FLORIDA

BLACK HISTORY

# Civil Rights Pioneer: ‘We can’t let up’

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

One of the leading pioneers of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, Patricia Stephens Due, passed away on Feb. 7 in Smyrna, Ga.; she was 72 years old. Due had been battling thyroid cancer since 2009 and took her last breath surrounded by family members, who sang freedom songs as she made her transition.

Patricia Stephens was born in Quincy, Fla., in 1939, and at the age of 13 she engaged in an act of civil disobedience by refusing to move away from a “whites-only” line at an ice cream parlor. This act of defiance took place long before the upsurge in mass activity burst forth after the Montgomery, Ala., and Tallahassee, Fla., bus boycotts of 1955 and 1956.

At the age of 15, Stephens was shocked and outraged when a white mail carrier made a lewd comment to her. With the assistance of her mother, she filed a formal complaint against the man.

After a year, when additional complaints had made against the mail carrier by white women, an investigator questioned young Stephens in an effort to intimidate her. Later she learned that he had been fired.

In 1959, at the age of 19, Stephens became a co-founder of the local chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality during a period of burgeoning Civil Rights activity. The following year saw a nationwide protest movement largely led by students, aimed at breaking down legalized segregation in all its forms in the United States.

Stephens became a field secretary for CORE in northern Florida, where she supervised voter registration drives among African Americans. When the sit-in movement began in Greensboro, N.C., on Feb. 1, 1960, Stephens helped organize similar efforts in Florida.

On Feb. 20, 1960, Stephens and 10 other students were arrested for protesting segregation at a Woolworth’s Department store in Tallahassee. She and seven other students refused to pay \$300 fines for violating Jim Crow laws.

They were sentenced to 49 days in jail, and Stephens, along with five other students, served their full sentences. This act of resistance became known as the first “jail-in,” where activists refused to pay fines for laws they considered unjust and morally reprehensible.

These developments catapulted Stephens into national prominence. She went on a nationwide speaking tour that drew the support of such figures as author James Baldwin and performer Harry Belafonte.

During this same period Stephens would suffer an eye injury that plagued her the rest of her life. In Tallahassee, cops fired tear gas into a church during a movement meeting. A canister hit her right between the eyes, and from then on she was forced to wear dark glasses as a result of sensitivity to light.

In 1963 she married John D. Due Jr., a Civil Rights lawyer. For their honeymoon they traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the historic March on Washington held on Aug. 28 of that year.

In her memoir, co-authored with her daughter, Tananarive, “Freedom in the Family: A Mother-Daughter Memoir of the Fight for Civil Rights,” Patricia Stephens Due wrote, “I didn’t know it then, but refusing to back down would be a trademark in my life.”

Tananarive Due wrote, “My parents were more than parents to me, they were living monuments. As far as we were concerned, they had helped change the world.”

In a speech delivered at the University of Florida on Feb. 16, 2011, Patricia Stephens Due urged, “I know we’ve been through a lot, but we can’t let up, because the struggle continues.” (CNN Blog, Feb. 7)

### 21st-century Civil Rights and African-American liberation

The struggle for fundamental rights for African Americans and other oppressed nations within the U.S. remains a major source of contention in the 21st century. The 2000 national presidential election in Florida represented this ongoing fight for universal suffrage and self-determination.

With the stealing of the 2000 election in Florida and the assumption of power by the Bush administration, a new wave of racism and repression swept the U.S. Today a myriad of repressive laws have been enacted; the social conditions of African Americans have worsened with high



unemployment, growing poverty, and increasing rates of incarceration and police violence directed against the community.

Even under a Democratic administration led by an African-American president, African Americans are subjected to large-scale home foreclosures, higher infant mortality rates, racially motivated prosecutions as well as police terrorism.

These conditions require independent political action against both national oppression and economic exploitation. The capitalist system is at a dead end, with its inability to provide good jobs, homes, quality education, health care and equality under the legal system.

It is only with the realization of a socialist society that African Americans, the nationally oppressed and working people as whole can expect to see their living standards rise. Under socialism the wealth of society will be distributed equitably among those who work and those who need assistance. □

*Read the entire article at workers.org.*

# The real story of the Tuskegee Airmen

By **Dolores Cox**

During Black History Month, it is important to tell the real story about the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American aviators who were allowed to fly airplanes in the U.S. military.

The U.S. had a legal apartheid system of racial segregation following the defeat of Reconstruction, also known as the “Jim Crow” era, that included the military. At that time, Tuskegee, Ala., was one of the most racist cities in the country.

In a country where “white supremacy” is still the law of the land, back in 1941, six Black cadets out of thousands of applicants were determined to pursue their dream of becoming airmen as they entered the second phase of basic military flight training at Tuskegee Army Air Field, under white Southern military instructors. Almost 1,000 Black airmen eventually were trained and sent overseas to fly escort planes for whites who flew bomber planes over Germany.

Acceptance of the airmen into the Army Air Corps squadron in Tuskegee was an experiment that was designed to fail, to prove that African Americans were

not up to the challenge of flying in battle. Expectations of them were low.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt was successfully pressured by the NAACP, the Black press and their demands for the Air Corps to take steps towards recruiting Black men into their ranks. The Tuskegee Airmen’s historical role helped pave the way for the civil rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s, despite receiving very little publicity.

The experience of these airmen is the subject of a new movie and also of a long-running off-Broadway play in New York City. Both focus on the same subject but portray the airmen from different perspectives.

### Different viewpoints

The title of the movie is “Red Tails,” the name given to the Tuskegee Airmen by the white crews they were protecting on bomber raids, due to the red color painted on some tails of the planes that they flew. It was produced and mainly financed by George Lucas and directed by Anthony Hemingway. It features Terrence Howard and Cuba Gooding Jr., though neither one is seen flying in the combat scenes.

The movie focuses on the all-Black squadron in their segregated, ramshackle boot camp, with their dilapidated planes, while stationed in an Italian town. After much protest and many demands the airmen are finally given permission to fly in combat with decent planes against the Nazi Germany air force.

Lucas states that “Red Tails” had been a vision of his for some 20 years and took two years to produce. He says he personally undertook financing and distributing the film because Hollywood refused to support a movie celebrating Black war heroes.

This film, however, does not cast too favorable a light on the behavior of some of the main Tuskegee Airmen, nor does it capture the true essence of their struggle within the racist military.

The squad leader, for instance, is depicted as an alcoholic. Another pilot acts as a jokester in camp and while engaged with the German air force during dog-fights, performs aerial stunts.

When a racial fight breaks out between an airman and a white pilot in an officer’s club in an Italian town, it abruptly ends when one of the white pilots suddenly recognizes one of the Black men from being in the cockpit of a plane shadowing his plane. The incident somehow magically changes into all the men smiling, hugging each other and enjoying drinks together.

The racism the airmen experience in the military and society in general is too often downplayed. Quite a bit of poetic license and stereotyping are displayed, which contradicts Lucas’ supposed aims.

In contrast, the play, “Black Angels over Tuskegee,” is poignant, much more realistic and features more believable characters. It is written and directed by

Layon Gray, who also portrays one of the airmen in the play.

The play uncovers their hopes, dreams and tribulations as they cope with their racist surroundings. It is an entertaining, powerful and inspirational drama in which the airmen perform their duties with pride, dignity and perseverance as they rise to the challenges to become superior fighter pilots with the unrealistic hopes that somehow their acts of patriotism will instantly eradicate white racism.

Though not as well-known as the actors in “Red Tails,” the cast members in “Black Angels” are talented and dramatize the story with depth and sensitivity. Though there is humor in the play, it’s not displayed as clowning around. It’s deeply moving, and the audience shares their victories and feels their pain.

“Black Angels over Tuskegee” opened off-Broadway in January 2010 and is still running. The men are first seen arriving on the Tuskegee army air force base in a cold waiting room to find out if they “qualify to serve.” They display the courage to excel in the midst of racist insults and deliberate attempts by white soldiers to make their lives more difficult while studying for the exam they are expected to fail.

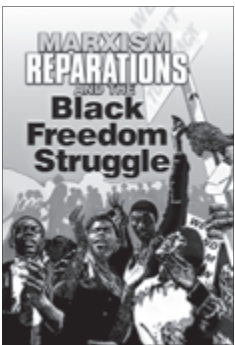
They fight hard to dispel stereotypical images of Black men. Close to a hundred of these airmen lost their lives overseas either in combat or by accident.

In reality, following their discharge from the service, Jim Crow signs reading “colored only” and “white only” awaited the Tuskegee Airmen back home. Along with the rest of the African-American population, the airmen were targets of discrimination, oppression and domestic terrorism. Even Black veterans wearing their uniform were victims of lynching. □

## MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead. Includes: • **Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination** Larry Holmes • **Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy • **Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** Leilani Dowell • **The Struggle for Socialism Is Key** Monica Moorehead • **Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!** Saladin Muhammad • **Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation** Consuela Lee • **Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior** Mumia Abu-Jamal • **Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? 40th Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion** John Parker • **Racism and Poverty in the Delta** Larry Hales • **Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions** Pat Chin

Available at Amazon.com and bookstores around the country  
[workers.org/reparations/](http://workers.org/reparations/)



COVER GRAPHIC BY SAHU BARRON



# On the Picket Line

By Sue Davis

## Workers to picket Howard U. Hospital

The 1,000 workers at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C., represented by American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2094, voted to strike last fall while continuing to negotiate. But management recently declared an end to negotiations and announced it was moving to implement their final contract offer. “It’s not even about money,” Local 2094 President Laurretta Stevenson told the e-zine, Union City. “What they want is control; they’ve stripped all union rights out of the contract. Anything requiring them to bargain with the union is gone. Period.” Besides circulating a petition to bring the administration back to the table, the workers have organized a rally on Feb. 15 outside the hospital to press their demands for a fair contract. Stop Wisconsin-style union busting in D.C., say the workers. (Washington Metro Council AFL-CIO, Feb. 8)

## NYC street vendors to protest fines

New York City’s 2,000 street vendors are fed up with \$1,000 fines for minor offenses that have nothing to do with health or safety. It’s hard enough to try to scratch out a living in all kinds of weather without constantly being hassled by cops for petty violations — like not having a license in your pocket, having boxes beside your table during set-up, or being one foot too close to the crosswalk. At the cops’ whim, fines can escalate to \$1,000, which is totally outrageous punishment for the smallest of small businesses — the very immigrants, veterans and entrepreneurs whose wares poor and working people need. To end this economic injustice, the Street Vendor Project, ¡Vamos Unidos! and the 12th Merchants’ Association have called a press conference on Feb. 16 at City Hall. Afterward, the vendors plan to march in support of two laws before the City Council: Intro 434, which will lower the fines, and Intro 435, which will change the way the fines escalate. (Street Vendor Project email, Feb. 2)

## D.C. unionists confront Conservative PAC

More than 1,200 union, Occupy and community activists held two demonstrations on Feb. 10 to protest the politics of corporate greed and union busting at the Conservative Political Action Conference meeting in Washington, D.C. At noon, more than 700 protesters came to “Occupy CPAC,” shutting down Woodley Road outside the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel where CPAC was meeting. The impromptu sit-in then turned into a brief takeover of the hotel’s driveway. Confronting Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, who spoke at 1 p.m., the protesters set up Occupy-style tents populated with “tax dodgers” in three-piece suits and a giant inflated figure of “Mitt.” At 5 p.m., about 500 activists, organized by Food and Commercial Workers Local 1994, met Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, scheduled to speak at 7 p.m., with a “golden throne” (a toilet bowl painted gold) to personify his greed and arrogance. They made sure he could hear their chants of “What’s disgusting? Union busting!” and “We are the 99%!” (Metro Washington Council AFL-CIO, Feb. 13)

## Locked-out workers launch Journey for Justice

In response to the rash of lockouts forcing workers off the job, two groups of locked-out workers are joining forces to rally support in their Journey for Justice. Beginning Feb. 22, workers at the American Crystal Sugar Co. in Minnesota and North Dakota and those from the Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. in Findlay, Ohio, will start a 1,000-mile trip from Fargo, N.D., to Findlay to stop “the war on workers” with rallies, fundraisers and other activities organized by unions and allies. More than 1,300 sugar beet workers at Crystal, represented by Bakery Workers (BCTGM) Local 167G, have been walking picket lines since Aug. 1, while the more than 1,000 Steelworkers unionists in Local 2071 at Cooper have been out since Nov. 18. Both unions point to the gargantuan greed driving both companies to try to bust the unions. The caravan will visit six states, from Minnesota to Ohio, in six days. Defend union jobs! (AFL-CIO Now Blog, Feb. 9)

## SAG and AFTRA to merge

The merger of the Screen Actors Guild, with more than 200,000 members, and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, with more than 70,000 members, was approved on Jan. 29 by the boards of the two unions. Members of the two unions will vote on the merger in February and March. By forming a united front against the very powerful movie and television moguls, the new union, to be known as SAG-AFTRA, will be able to “secure more union work and better benefits for our members and for the generations of entertainment and media professionals who follow us,” said AFTRA President Roberta Reardon. (AFL-CIO Now Blog, Jan. 30) □

# Tomato workers win contract with Trader Joe’s

By Brenda Ryan

A farmworker organization in Florida has won a major battle in the fight for justice for tomato pickers. Trader Joe’s finally agreed to sign an agreement with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to support the group’s Fair Food Program.

The program requires companies to pay a penny more per pound of tomatoes and ensure better working conditions for farmworkers.

“The agreements give workers a raise from \$60 to \$80 a day and assure them basic rights that virtually every other employee in the United States enjoys, including accurate time keeping, clearly defined grievance procedures, safety education, and protection from violence and sexual harass-

ment in the fields,” Barry Estabrook, author of “Tomatoland,” said on his blog PoliticsOfThe-Plate.com.

Based in Immokalee, Fla., CIW is a community-based organization of mainly Latino/a, Mayan Indian and Haitian immigrants working in low-wage jobs throughout the state. They have been campaigning for Trader Joe’s to sign the agreement for the past two years and planned actions against the company’s new store in Naples, Fla., before it signed the agreement on Feb. 9. Trader Joe’s now has 367 grocery stores in nine states.

CIW is continuing to demand that other stores join this program, including Publix, Florida’s largest supermarket chain. CIW and its allies are holding a “Fast for Food” on March 5-10, which

will begin at Publix’s headquarters in Lakeland, Fla.

“It’s one thing to passively profit from farmworker poverty, as Publix and other supermarket chains have done for decades, buying artificially cheap tomatoes off the market, no questions asked, unconcerned about how they came to be so cheap,” CIW said on its website. “But it’s something else all together to affirmatively perpetuate farmworker poverty, as Publix and the other supermarket chains are doing when they refuse to participate in the Fair Food Program.”

Trader Joe’s is the second supermarket chain to agree to participate in the Fair Food Program. Whole Foods Market previously agreed to do so, as have eight major food retailers, including McDonald’s and Burger King. □

## Fired in ‘silent’ ICE raid

# Pacific Steel workers fight back

By Terri Kay

Over 200 Pacific Steel Casting Company workers were fired just before Christmas in a “silent” U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid in Berkeley, Calif. This past year has seen record high deportations by U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s ICE as a result of their “employment eligibility audits,” which check social security numbers of workers, as submitted on federal I-9 forms. There were a record 2,338 I-9 audits by June for the 2011 fiscal year, according to the E-Verify I-9 blog.

The majority of fired Pacific Steel workers had from five to 20 years seniority. In addition to losing their income, the firings caused these workers and their families to lose health care benefits and all the money which they had paid into their pension plans.

Pacific Steel Casting is among the largest steel casting companies remaining in the U.S. Approximately one-third of their work force were fired. Despite being a unionized company based in Berkeley — which is a “sanctuary” city for undocumented workers — working conditions at the plant are awful, including substandard pay, denial of proper breaks and inadequate eating facilities. These workers put up with poor conditions for decades out of fear of losing their jobs, as now has occurred.

Reportedly, ICE has stepped up the quantity and intensity of these I-9 audit raids on the presumption that those fired as a result would “self-deport.” The Berkeley workers, members of Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics, and Allied Workers Local 164B, are resisting this attempt to remove them from their families and communities. They instead have organized,

garnering the support of a host of community organizations. They are holding a March for Dignity in Berkeley on Feb. 17.

They are determined to fight not only their own losses, but to fight against the exploitation of their documented co-workers, as well. They are filing a class action lawsuit against Pacific Steel Casting for systematically denying all workers, undocumented and documented, proper lunch breaks and an adequate cafeteria.

Friday’s March for Dignity starts in front of Berkeley City Hall. The Committee of Fired Workers from the Pacific Steel Casting Company are asking marchers to wear white shirts.

This struggle has also brought to light the case of Jesús Navarro, one of the Pacific Steel workers, fired after 14 years, who was next in line for a kidney transplant.

*Continued on page 7*

## Attacks on airline workers

# Union-busting hidden by FAA

By G. Dunkel

The Federal Aviation Administration, which is in charge of the airline industry and its infrastructure, has been operating on 23 temporary budget authorizations since 2007. So it was a big deal when a permanent, five-year authorization passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Barack Obama.

It authorizes work to begin on a new air traffic control system, airport construction and other improvements to the health, safety and convenience of air travel.

While there have been no objections to these features of the bill, a number of unions mounted a very visible campaign against

changes to the Railway Labor Act, which also regulates airlines, made in this bill.

The RLA was passed in 1926, amended in 1934, and has not changed in over 75 years.

While it is difficult to organize workers under the RLA, nevertheless, around two-thirds of the 500,000 workers in the airline industry are unionized.

The new changes allow airline companies to rip up valid union contracts. If a larger, nonunion company merges with a smaller, unionized company, the union contracts in force vanish. (Association of Flight Attendants)

Mergers are very common in this industry. American Airlines is planning on laying off 13,000 workers to save \$2 billion, which means it is now a merger target.

If a nonunion carrier gobbles up AA, the estimated 80,000 remaining workers after the layoffs will not have the protection of a union contract.

Unions have to file authorization cards to hold an election to gain bargaining rights. The previous standard was 35 percent. Now it will be 50 percent. The cards will be public, which means employers will be able to pressure workers who sign them.

Employers will now have the right to suspend National Mediation Board rulings until their challenges are heard in a court of law, which seriously weakens the board’s power.

A bill that improves safety and convenience, while at the same time weakening the strength of unions, should be opposed. □



## 75th anniversary of Flint Sit-down Strike

# The Occupy that won the union

By Martha Grevatt

Feb. 11 is the 75th anniversary of the victory of the 1937 Flint Sit-down strike, one of the most significant events in U.S. labor history. After occupying General Motors plants for 44 days, workers won recognition of the United Auto Workers and the first industry contract. This victory set off a chain reaction. Not only autoworkers but workers in steel, textile, retail, restaurant, public service and other sectors won union recognition. During this year of working class upsurge, African-American workers as well as Latino/a, Asian, Native, immigrant and women workers, played a pivotal role.

The sit-down in Flint began Dec. 30, 1936, and ended in victory on Feb. 11, 1937. Back then, they were part of their own Occupy movement of the time — against the 1%, whose system, capitalism, had plunged millions into unemployment and starvation while millions more toiled at backbreaking speeds to meet demands for more and more production.

The Goodyear strike was the first big win for the newly formed Committee on Industrial Organization. The CIO was started as a committee of eight unions inside the American Federation of Labor to push for industrial unionism. The conservative AFL practiced craft unionism, focusing on skilled white male workers on a trade-by-trade basis, and resisted the demand to organize the masses of industrial workers by industry.

The CIO welcomed all workers, organizing African-American, Latino/a, Asian, Native, women and immigrant workers who worked in steel, auto, textile, rubber, retail, food service and the public sector.

### Communists, Black workers organize

There were 10 plants in Flint. Fisher Body 1 supplied the whole company with stampings. Shutting it down was critical. The lead organizer and strategist was Bob Travis, a union militant who became a Communist Party member during the

big Chevrolet strike in Toledo, Ohio, in 1935. He had been recommended by UAW Vice President Wyndham Mortimer, also a Communist, who had successfully organized auto plants in Cleveland. Mortimer had come to Flint in June of 1936 to rebuild the union. He would leaflet the plants — and the leaflets made their way down the line — with a class-conscious message.

Mortimer believed it was critical to involve Black workers in the organizing drive. He met with them in the basement of an African-American church and workers' homes. To protect their identities they met in near-dark; the only light was a single candle. They had good reason to be afraid. The "Black Legion" was a Klan offshoot that wore black robes instead of white.

The Legion terrorized the Black community and union organizers. Their most famous casualty was the Rev. Earl Little, the father of Malcolm X, murdered outside Lansing, Mich. Their robes were rumored to have been sewn by pro-company women working overtime in GM's upholstery plants.

Unlike Mortimer, Homer Martin, the UAW president at the time, was not so progressive. In fact, he was a fan of the fascist, pro-Nazi Father Charles Coughlin, now seen as the father of hate radio. Martin pulled Mortimer out of Flint, but sent Bob Travis in his place.

A Fisher Body plant in Cleveland also produced stampings. Workers at that plant sat down on Dec. 28. The mighty presses were silenced. Two days later, the Cleveland strike moved outside. On Dec. 30, rumors swirled about the Flint Fisher plant that stamping dies were being moved out of the plant. At a lunchtime meeting, Travis asked the workers what should be done. Cries rang out, "Shut her down!" Before the end of the shift, an occupation was in progress. The Fisher Body 2 plant had already been taken over earlier that day.

Workers from other plants, along with family members of the sit-downers, kept

the mass picketing going night and day. Women played an indispensable role, keeping the men fed, providing day care for women picketers' children, administering first aid, and tackling many other essential tasks.

GM was a Jim Crow operation then. In most plants Black workers were only employed as janitors. The exception was the Buick foundry, where conditions were the worst, and Black workers' jobs were the worst of the worst. The Buick plant was not on strike, but was idled, and Henry Clark and Prince Combs, in whose homes the dimly-lit organizing meetings had occurred, built support for the union. J.D. Dotson was a Black Communist who carried messages from one picket line to another and in and out of the occupied plants.

On Jan. 11, Flint police decided to storm the plants. This was easier said than done. The workers had been making piles of door hinges and other heavy metal parts. The police were subjected to a hail of these now, hurled from the second floor, along with water hoses turned on them in zero degree weather. The fight raged on, and 12 or 13 strikers were injured by gunfire, along with a supporting striking bus driver. But in the end the cops fled. They ran, and the battle is known as the Battle of Bulls' Run.

### Building multinational workers' unity

One of the heroes inside Chevy 4 was Roscoe Van Zandt, an African-American worker. He stayed inside the plant from beginning to end, dangerous for a Black worker, and accounts of the Flint struggle name him as the only one who stayed inside. At first, he kept to himself, but Socialists like Kermit Johnson and Howard Foster educated the white workers on the need for solidarity. There was one bed in the plant, and they gave it to Van Zandt.

Immigrant workers were also very active in the strike. Most of them were from Eastern Europe and the majority

of them were Polish. They left as a group from a meeting at the Polish hall when they heard about Bulls' Run in progress. At least one Mexican immigrant, Rafael Arceo, is known to have joined the union in 1936, and he stayed inside for the entire duration of the Fisher 1 sit-down.

Well, the strike continued. Neither the cops, the company's paid vigilantes (known as the Flint Alliance, they tried to organize a "back to work" campaign), the Michigan National Guard, nor court injunctions could break the workers' resolve.

Seventy-five years ago today, on Feb. 11, 1937, the workers marched out of the plants, triumphant. GM had signed a contract recognizing the union in 19 key plants.

Sit-down fever spread like wildfire. Hundreds were reported and hundreds more went unreported. Every sector of the working class got in on the act: women at Woolworth's and other department stores; textile workers protesting sweatshop conditions; hospital workers in Brooklyn; and city workers in Chicago, who shut down a drawbridge during rush hour. Even blind workers in a workshop and prisoners sat down to win better conditions.

Chrysler fell in line, agreeing to negotiate with the UAW after a 31-day sit-down at six Detroit plants. The strike continued with outside picketing, and in a short time, Walter P. Chrysler recognized the UAW as the sole bargaining agent.

All of Detroit was engulfed. This was true class unity. In the 1930s, hundreds of thousands of the most oppressed workers showed great militancy and courage — they poured into the CIO. The great organizing drives would probably have failed if it had been otherwise.

Flint is a great example of the importance of unity of Black and white workers. Communists like Mortimer and Travis understood this and went to great lengths to make Black and immigrant workers feel welcome in the UAW.

*Read more at workers.org*



## State Capitol in Wisconsin

# One year after takeover



PHOTO: REBECCA KEMBLE

Protesters from across Wisconsin and beyond rallied at the State Capitol in Madison Feb. 11 to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the people's uprising that is still shaking the foundations of Wall Street.

On Feb. 11, 2011, Gov. Scott Walker held a press conference in Madison to announce his intent — on behalf of Wall Street and the Pentagon — to bust public sector unions. Within hours tens of thousands took to the State Capitol and occupied it for days, ushering in the largest protests ever in the state and helping to ignite a new era of people's resistance in the U.S.

Inspired by the Tunisian and Egyptian peoples' uprisings, the people's resistance to union busting and austerity in Wisconsin continues to inspire other righteous resistance — from poor and working peo-

ple in Ohio defeating a union-busting bill to Occupy Wall Street.

Throughout the last year, poor and working people of all nationalities in Wisconsin have fought tenaciously and courageously on many fronts. Despite relentless attacks by Wall Street and its political servants like Walker, activists continue to fight back statewide, scoring important victories like securing 1 million signatures to recall Walker.

The battle between the ruling class and the working class and the oppressed rages on in Wisconsin, but, as shown at the one-year anniversary celebration, the struggle continues not only to defeat the anti-people attacks but to ensure that a better world's in birth.

— Bryan G. Pfeifer

## STOP TUITION HIKES

# No. Carolina students occupy

*Continued from page 1*

across the floor before arresting him.

### Students take over meeting, hold 'People's Board of Education'

In the lobby, student after student testified about the crippling impacts of student loan debt; the raising of tuition year after year while classes have been cut and professors laid off; the struggles of so many to afford school; and how the tuition hikes are part of the broader attack being waged on workers and students by the 1%.

"We're not gonna turn our heads. We're not gonna take this lying down. Education is a right!" Demonte Alford, a student at East Carolina University, told the crowd.

"The 9.9 percent tuition hike on our campus will burden already struggling students with having to find ways to pay for school. For some students at Winston Salem State University, the road to college was impossible at some point so to finally make it to college and then be faced with not being able to afford a quality education is unacceptable," said Grace Anderson, a WSSU student.

After the BOG voted to raise tuition, students stormed into their meeting and took over the room, shutting down the board's press conference. As hundreds of students flooded the room, BOG members scurried out the back door. Only Dr. Franklin McCain, a member of the Greensboro 4 and veteran of the Civil Rights Movement, re-

mained to support the students.

Students tossed the BOG members' name tags on the floor, declared that a "People's Board of Education" was now in session, and opened the floor for proposals. Resolutions were put forward calling for free education, undocumented students' access to the university system, and full funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Others demanded an end to racism and war funding at the expense of human needs. A resounding call was made for students to take this fight back to their campuses and keep building the movement.

"Look at what we've done! This is how we start to get things done. However, when we leave here, we have to keep fighting!" said Jonathan Whitfield, a WWSU student

### Unity, solidarity play important role

The N.C. Defend Education Coalition, a statewide coalition of student and youth organizations, helped to bring students from across the state. Some traveled as many as 300 miles to join the demonstration. Participants came from nearly each of the 17 schools that make up the UNC system. Many students mobilized to come from N.C. HBCU's.

Anderson explained, "I came from Winston-Salem to the protest because I felt that the need of representation of students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities was great. Of all the schools in the UNC sys-



# Banks get off easy

# ‘Mortgage relief’ deal won’t stop one foreclosure

By Jerry Goldberg

*The writer is a Detroit-based anti-foreclosure attorney and a leading organizer in the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs.*

A settlement has been trumpeted between the federal government and 49 state attorneys general with Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Ally Financial “to address mortgage loan servicing and foreclosure abuses.” (Department of Justice, Feb. 9) While acknowledging the massive fraud perpetrated by these institutions in carrying out foreclosures, the agreement provides minimal compensation for the hundreds of thousands of families who have lost their homes.

The \$25 billion settlement will not prevent or stop one foreclosure. Instead, it is projected that the banks, with the settlement behind them, will actually accelerate the pace of foreclosures in 2012. (Global Finance News, Feb. 11) In 2011, a whopping 2.7 million foreclosure filings were reported in the U.S. (RealtyTrac, Jan. 12) This figure will likely rise significantly this year.

While the settlement details have yet to be published, the Department of Justice notes that \$1.5 billion will be used to establish a fund to “compensate” borrowers who lost their homes between 2008 and 2011. This means the banks will pay less than \$2,000 per loan file for “lying to courts and end-running the law.” (New York Times, Feb. 11)

Seventeen billion dollars of the \$25 billion settlement is for principal reductions on underwater loans. (“Underwater” means the current value of the home is worth less than the amount owed on the mortgage.) Approximately 11 million borrowers are underwater on their loans to the tune of \$700 billion in total, so \$17 billion in write-downs amounts to a measly 2.4 percent of

the total negative equity weighing down homeowners across the U.S.

Moreover, these write-downs do not affect any Fannie Mae- or Freddie Mac-backed loans, which encompass at least 56 percent of all mortgages. Fannie and Freddie are U.S.-government-owned and taxpayer-funded agencies that insure and own mortgage loans.

The settlement earmarks \$5 billion for compensation to the states for the losses they suffered due to the foreclosure epidemic. But there has been \$1.9 trillion, yes, trillion, in home equity loss due to foreclosures. (Center for Responsible Lending, August 2010) This huge home equity loss has destroyed the tax base of city, county and state governments across the U.S. and led to the destruction of public services and the elimination of millions of jobs. The \$5 billion in “compensation” is a paltry sum and cruel joke to the workers and communities that have been devastated by the foreclosure epidemic.

### Demand moratorium to stop foreclosures

The settlement website lists a set of new servicing guidelines that are supposed to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. In fact, most of the guidelines listed are already encompassed in directives and regulations published in connection with the federal Home Affordable Modification Program, or HAMP.

## Milwaukee

# Occupy movement: ‘Moratorium now!’

By Bryan G. Pfeifer  
Milwaukee

On Feb. 6, members of the Occupy Coalition in Milwaukee held a protest at the Chase Bank at Water and Wisconsin streets. Then they marched to City Hall to demand a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions, a jobs program and a community-driven audit of Community Development Block Grants.

## Pacific Steel workers

*Continued from page 5*

When his immigration status was revealed, he was taken off the list. The case so outraged people all over the country that upwards of 50,000 signed petitions demanding that the University of California San Francisco Medical Center’s transplant center put him back on the list and conduct the transplant, for which he has a willing donor.

In response to UCSF’s excuse that transplant patients need to be able to show the means for receiving long-term drugs and medical care to prevent organ rejection, the California Nurses Association demanded in an online petition and letter that UCSF “provide all follow-up medical care and needed medicine, regardless of whether the cost is covered by medical insurance.” They also demanded that UCSF publicly state that they “will no longer ask any patient about their immigration status ... deny care based on immigration status ... take affirmative steps to ensure that all patients at UCSF are treated equally without regard to their immigration status or nationality.”

The overwhelming public outrage has forced UCSF to put Jesús back on the list. They claim to be working out a long-term support plan for him. □

The HAMP guidelines are routinely ignored by the banks, however. This is acknowledged in the new settlement as well as in previous consent decrees with every major bank, and the Federal Reserve and Office of the Controller. Families who qualify for modifications under federal law and regulations, who submit every document required, and who make every trial payment required under these programs, suddenly find themselves in foreclosure.

Government entities refuse to enforce the very programs they create mandating modifications by the banks, and judges routinely side with the financial institutions. The settlement has no mechanism for individual borrowers to enforce their right to loan modifications. And, with the attorney general litigation now over, the banks are freed up to continue their routine disregard for federal laws and regulations without fear of prosecution.

While this settlement provides little actual relief to homeowners, the acknowledgement by the five largest mortgage banks of their fraudulent activity strengthens the argument for the immediate implementation of a moratorium on all foreclosures and foreclosure-related evictions in the U.S. The settlement will take three years to be implemented. Why should there be one foreclosure while homeowners await the little relief being promised?

There is already an independent fore-

closure review of all foreclosures initiated in 2009-2010 pursuant to a Federal Reserve consent decree for servicing abuses. Why should one homeowner face the loss of their home while their foreclosure is being investigated for bank fraud?

Why should the same federal government that trumpets how it is allegedly fighting for homeowners be, at the same time, the primary conduit of foreclosures and evictions through Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Authority? These government-controlled institutions together own or insure 75 percent of mortgage loans in the U.S. and have funneled approximately \$200 billion to the banks through the silent bailout that occurs with every foreclosure when the bank receives full value for the underwater mortgage.

A national conference in Detroit on March 31 called by the Moratorium NOW! Coalition will strategize furthering a campaign to demand President Barack Obama place an immediate long-term moratorium on all foreclosures through executive action. A national moratorium on foreclosures will keep people in their homes while they organize for real relief for the victims of the foreclosure epidemic, along with criminal prosecution of the bankers who created the crisis. Contact [nationalmoratorium.org](http://nationalmoratorium.org) to register for this important conference. □

## Board meeting

tem, Winston Salem State University is one of the schools that will suffer the most from the tuition hikes. Those who came before us fought too hard for us to let the right to have an education be made unobtainable.”

Importantly, not only did the N.C. NAACP mobilize, but so did campus-based NAACP chapters. Students built conscious ties with worker organizations, including United Electrical Workers Local 150, the N.C. Public Service Workers Union, and the N.C. AFL-CIO. This was a crucial ingredient in exposing the systematic attacks being carried out by the 1%, and for building multinational and class solidarity.

The N.C. Defend Education Coalition is planning to hold a statewide gathering very soon to continue building on this tremendous mobilization.

The BOG, and similar institutions of the 1%, want us to believe that they are the ones who make history. But all over the world, the actions by workers and young people who are taking their destiny into their own hands — fighting back against the bankers and the states’ brutal austerity programs, and opening a struggle to get rid of the 1% once and for all — are showing that quite the opposite is true.

The revolutionary fervor that is engulfing the world was in the air during the Feb. 10 action. All those who participated have vowed to continue to fight, to organize and to carry this struggle forward. □

The Occupy Coalition includes Decolonize The Hood, Occupy Milwaukee, Occupy Riverwest and Occupy The Hood. Members of Occupy Fondulac, Occupy Appleton and the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement also participated in the protest activities.

Occupy members and allies began their protest at Chase Bank because its criminal activities make it one of the top banks destroying communities all over Milwaukee and the rest of the world. There have been 20,000 foreclosures in Milwaukee since 2007, the majority in the central city where most African-American residents live. More than 50 percent of Black men are officially unemployed in Milwaukee.

While marching, Occupy participants chanted and held signs and placards displaying their demands. Moments before they entered City Hall, a massive banner declaring the Occupy Coalition’s demands was dropped over the second-floor railing of the building.

Once inside, Occupy members were harassed by more than two dozen fully armed Milwaukee police as well as members of the Major Incident Response Team. These forces were almost all white, despite the fact that Milwaukee’s Black population is 40 percent and the Latino/a population is approximately 15 percent.

Anthony Williams of Occupy The Hood told Workers World, “I feel like this is the Gaza strip out here. I feel like they trying to keep us in containment. We are only exercising our rights. I look around and I see all the barricades and all the police vans and the police vehicles outside keeping us from even going to the second floor. Hell yeah, I got a big problem with that.”

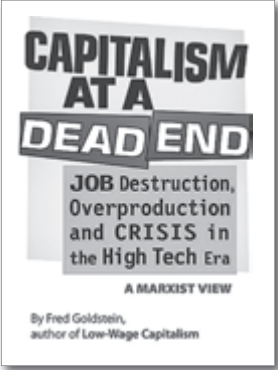
Undeterred by the police, protesters took over the City Hall rotunda for more than an hour. Occupy The Hood members took the lead chanting and reading

state and city statutes detailing what Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker can legally do — declare a state of emergency in the city and state and issue a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions.

When the protesters attempted to use the stairs to go to Barrett’s office, they were stopped, threatened by police and told that the mayor refused to see them.

Williams said, “Barrett doesn’t deserve to be the mayor over my city. He should have no governance over any constituents who he’s not willing to speak to. He has us locked down here on the first floor and will not even allow us to come up to the second floor nor the third level or his office. If he knows we want to speak to him, I see no reason why he shouldn’t be out here listening to his constituents.”

After directly confronting two City Council members about Barrett’s locking them out, one African-American city councilor agreed to hold a public hearing regarding the Occupy Coalition’s demands and grievances. Declaring a temporary victory, the protesters marched out, chanting “We’ll be back,” and held an impromptu rally in front of City Hall. □



### Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the High Tech Era

Pamphlet is available at [LowWageCapitalism.org](http://LowWageCapitalism.org) and [www.workers.org/books](http://www.workers.org/books)  
Order pamphlet from Workers World  
55 W. 17 St., 5C, NY, NY 10011  
\$2 (plus \$1 shipping)



# Romanian workers fight cuts, prefer socialism

By Caleb T. Maupin

As imperialism emerged as a system, a few countries began to dominate and exploit the rest of the world. Among the first to be subjugated were the peoples of Eastern Europe. The vast natural resources and human labor to be found there have long been used to enrich capitalists elsewhere, while the people of Eastern Europe have lived in poverty.

The first and second world wars were caused by what V.I. Lenin called “imperialist rivalries.” The ruling classes of Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Japan and the United States battled each other for the ability to exploit the peoples of the colonies and turn their labor and resources into profits.

In World War II, German imperialism invaded Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, but Hitler’s armies were finally beaten back after enormous sacrifice and losses by the Soviet people. As the Red Army fought its way west, it liberated much of Eastern Europe from fascist regimes.

## Romania embarks on socialist road

One of those countries, Romania, had been under fascist rule since 1940. Almost all Romanian socialists and communists in that period were either murdered, sent to concentration camps or fled to the USSR. In 1944, with Germany in retreat, the bourgeoisie of Romania defected from the Axis, brought back the monarchy and joined the Allies. But Soviet troops were occupying Romania. For two years it became a “people’s democracy,” in which the surviving communists attempted to share power with the anti-fascist capitalists and social-democrats. The monarchy remained, though stripped of its power.

However, this alliance was short-lived and unstable. By 1947, King Michael, a puppet of Western capitalists, was forced to flee. The banks, natural resources, fac-

ories, land and all other commanding heights of the economy were confiscated. The Romanian Workers Party, later renamed the Communist Party, abolished capitalism and began the struggle to construct socialism.

Even U.S. government sources have to admit that the Communist-led government immediately addressed the needs of the people. “Romania: A Country Study,” published by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, confirms the many advances made during this period.

Between 1950 and 1971, the number of hospital beds per 1,000 people more than doubled in Romania. The number of doctors per 1,000 people increased by 25 percent. The infant mortality rate was reduced by more than 75 percent from 1950 to 1984.

In 1945, only 27 percent of the people were able to read and write. However, by 1966, “illiteracy was eradicated,” according to the Country Study.

By 1970, the number of teachers had tripled and the number of university professors in Romania had gone from only 2,000 before World War II to 13,000.

None of this was accomplished while foreign imperialists and capitalism dominated the country. Only when planning for human needs replaced capitalism were the Romanian working people able to advance so rapidly. The working-class government was able to mobilize the people to combat societal ills and create a better life, no longer restricted by the profit system.

However, in 1989 the Romanian working class suffered an extreme attack. After a right-wing coup d’etat and the execution of President Nicolae Ceausescu, a pro-Western capitalist government was created. The mines and factories of Romania were one by one sold off to the foreign imperialists.

There had no doubt been many problems and contradictions within the Ro-

manian workers’ state that contributed to its eventual demise. The Ceausescu government was not consistently anti-imperialist, even entering into agreements with imperialist countries against other workers’ states. The government wound up heavily in debt to Western banks. It then cut the standard of living drastically in order to repay the debt, putting a heavy burden on the people. However, these departures from socialist development were not caused by the system but by the poverty and underdevelopment of Romania in a world dominated by imperialism.

When, after 1989, the capitalist profit system returned to Romania, unemployment, homelessness and attacks on social services returned with it.

## The workers fight back

Some 48.7 percent of the youth in Romania today are at risk of poverty — the highest level in the European Union. (EUobserver.com, Feb. 8)

The health care system in Romania has been “on the verge of collapse.” The country’s hospitals are deeply in debt and routinely run out of basic supplies, such as stitches and antibiotics. (BBC News, Aug. 11, 2010)

Many Romanians have fled the country due to economic hardship. The population of Romania has actually decreased by 12 percent since 2002. (Daily Mail, Feb. 4)

As the global economic crisis unfolds, the capitalist government there, a tool of Western corporations, has responded with “austerity.” The wages of public sector workers have been cut by 25 percent. (Wall Street Journal Blog, Jan. 19)

Today, the revolutionary spirit that drove out the fascists and pushed socialist construction is re-emerging.

A law that would further privatize the health care system sparked uprisings throughout the country. Youth fought police in huge numbers and the controver-

sial bill was scrapped.

Prime Minister Emil Boc, who led the push for cuts in social spending, had to resign on Feb. 6. The leadership of the growing revolt is unclear, but the sentiments are not. Austerity is being opposed by mass resistance.

A poll taken by the Center for the Study of Market and Opinion is quite fascinating. (See balkananalysis.com.) Although commissioned by an anti-communist foundation, the poll, taken in 2011, showed that “half the country” agreed that “life was better in Romania before 1989.” In addition, 61 percent said “communism is a good idea.”

An overwhelming 72 percent of respondents felt the state should provide employment — which the workers’ government did during the period of socialist construction, but the current government does not.

At this moment, Romania is once again a neocolony, owned and controlled by Western capitalists. It is saddled with \$150 billion in foreign debt and austerity imposed from above. The polls and the massive upsurge and demonstrations show that many Romanian workers are clearly thinking about breaking their chains once again. □

## New York City

# All out to FREE LYNNE Stewart!



The jailing of courageous 72-year-old human rights attorney Lynne Stewart is an attempt by the U.S. government to silence dissent, curtail vigorous defense lawyers, and instill fear in those who would fight against the U.S. government’s racism, seek to help Arabs and Muslims being prosecuted for free speech, and defend the rights of all oppressed people. Stewart has spent her life defending poor and unpopular defendants.

Since her arrest 10 years ago on April 9, 2002, Stewart has fought false accusations and a government frame-up. Originally sentenced to 28 months in prison, she was resentenced on July 10, 2010 — in an unprecedented move after her bail was suddenly revoked — to 10 years in prison for showing an alleged lack of remorse after her initial sentencing.

Now is the time to come out to support Lynne Stewart and demand her freedom!

On Feb. 29, rally at 9 a.m. and then attend Lynne Stewart’s appeal hearing in New York’s Federal Court at 500 Pearl St. (Worth Street entrance) in Manhattan. This hearing will be heard on the 9th floor at 10 a.m.

## Other support actions for Lynne Stewart:

Monday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., 80 St. Marks Place in the East Village (between 1st and 2nd avenues): Artists and Poets Speak Out for Lynne Stewart, an evening of music, dance, poetry and film about Lynne Stewart and other political prisoners.

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 6 p.m. through Wed., Feb. 29, Tom Paine Park in New York’s Foley Square: all-night vigil with poets, speakers, drummers, rappers, gospel singers and dancers.

For more information, go to [lynnestewart.org](http://lynnestewart.org). □

# Terrorist Posada runs free while Cuban Five heroes fight on for freedom

By Cheryl LaBash

On Jan. 19, a request for the extradition of Luis Posada Carriles from the United States was filed in the Panamanian courts, according to LaEstrella.com. Posada and four co-conspirators were convicted of the attempted assassination of the then-Cuban president, Fidel Castro, at the 2000 Ibero-American Summit in Panama. Their plot to bomb the crowded university venue with 200 pounds of explosives was thwarted, saving many lives.

Posada Carriles and his gang were convicted and sent to prison for surprisingly short terms — eight years for the ringleader. Then in 2004, shortly before leaving Panama for Miami where she now lives, outgoing Panamanian president, Mireya Moscoso, swung the jail doors open for them. Now, they are all in Miami, enjoying life. Moscoso has been seen with Posada and says she would do a pardon for them again!

Panamanian courts overturned all of the pardons in 2008, charging that Moscoso overstepped her constitutional authority. The convictions and prison terms were reinstated. Although the extradition filing is a step forward, the Panamanian Supreme Court must yet rule and then order the Foreign Ministry to send the

## FREE THE CUBAN 5 unjustly held in U.S. prisons for more than 13 years



Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez and Fernando González Llort. René González Sehwerert, while recently released, is still being forced to remain in the U.S. against his will.

request to the U.S. In a process that has already taken years, it is unknown when these last steps will be completed.

The U.S. has refused to answer an extradition request for Posada Carriles from Venezuela for the 1976 midair bombing of Cubana Flight 455, killing all 73 people aboard. Nor has the U.S. complied with the Montreal Treaty, which mandates that anyone accused of such an act be extradited or judged in the country of residence.

In 2011, an El Paso, Texas, jury acquitted Posada Carriles of immigration charges. He has yet to stand trial on his real crimes and acts of terror.

Cubadebate.cu reported that new plans hatched by Posada Carriles to attack the Havana Book Fair and the new oil drilling platform in Cuban waters were uncovered.

The Cuban Five — Gerardo Hernández,

Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero and René González — came to the U.S. as undercover Cuban State Security agents to monitor such plans organized from U.S. territory. They are in their 14th year of unjust imprisonment. René González, although formally released from prison, is not permitted to return to Cuba for three additional years. In a doubly cruel blow, his beloved partner, Olga Salanueva, is still denied a U.S. visa to join him. Gerardo Hernández is serving two life terms plus 15 years. Adriana Pérez, his partner, is also denied a U.S. visa to visit her spouse.

The global outcry against this injustice is growing. Help break the silence around this case in the U.S. For more information, ideas and a link to Danny Glover’s new message about the Cuban Five, go to [www.theCuban5.org](http://www.theCuban5.org) □



GREECE

# Workers battle bosses’ austerity with two general strikes

By G. Dunkel

Feb. 12 - For the big-business media like the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and CNN television, the big news from Greece involves what is going to happen to Greek bonds, the euro, the European economy and the world economy. For these media and their owners, the hundreds of billions, even trillions of dollars at stake explain this emphasis.

But the true essence of the events in Greece is the heroic struggle of the Greek working class, in this small country of 11 million people, to defeat the cruel, draconian austerity being imposed by the European big banks.

This struggle is vitally important for workers and the poor throughout the world and deserves solidarity and support worldwide.

Economists predict that given the recent vicious cuts imposed by the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and accepted by the Greek government, the Greek economy — already in five years of recession — won’t come out of its spiraling downturn until at least 2015.

Four right-wing cabinet ministers and two socialists resigned from the coalition regime because they refused to identify themselves with this new round of austerity. For its own ultra-nationalist reasons, the Popular Orthodox Rally (LAOS), a small, near-fascist party, left the cabinet.

The coalition cabinet still managed to patch itself back together, and the Greek parliament voted Feb. 12 to accept this austerity plan.

Meanwhile, 25,000 union-organized protesters were demonstrating outside Parliament, which was protected by 3,000 police, who used tear gas against the demonstrators. On the edges of the protest, youth battled police, some throwing firebombs, and parts of Athens were on fire.

Vicious austerity cutbacks

What people now call the Troika — the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund — is demanding the following vicious cuts in return for a bank bailout:

- Cutting the minimum wage for private sector workers by 22 percent and for those newly hired at the minimum by 32 percent; workers at the minimum have already lost 45 percent of their 2009 wages;
- Collective bargaining agreements between the unions and companies in a particular sector of the economy are abolished;
- Cuts in supplementary pensions, soon to be followed by cuts to basic pensions;
- 15,000 public sector employees will lose their jobs this year followed by 150,000 two years after this, in an economy where unemployment is officially over 20 percent;
- Cuts in social services; those in health care will place human lives in danger;
- Stepped up tax enforcement against self-employed workers and small businesses in order to support the tax exemptions of big capital.

Since the minimum wage is the benchmark for most union/company agreements in Greece, lowering it will lower all private sector wages.



Athens, Feb. 7.

PHOTO: KKE

Workers fight back

In a working-class response to this latest wave of austerity, the three main unions in Greece called for a general strike on Feb. 7, which was widely followed. The strike stopped train and ferry services nationwide, while many schools and banks were closed and state hospitals worked with skeleton staff.

The steelworkers union, which had been on strike for 100 days, led a march on Parliament. There were some scattered sharp skirmishes between protesters and cops on the edges of the crowd, which drew a lot of press attention — more attention than did the tens of thousands who were protesting.

Some demonstrators burned a German flag, reflecting popular anger at the German government’s role in imposing this new round of austerity. According to the website of the Greek Communist Party, there were protests and demonstrations in 62 cities around the country. (inter.kke.gr)

The E.U. finance ministers then called for “implementation before disbursement” (additional cuts), for the Greek Parliament to endorse the measures on Feb. 12, and for the Greek parties in the coalition government to sign promises to maintain this agreement even after the upcoming election.

All three Greek unions reacted by calling another general strike, this time for 48 hours on Feb. 10 and 11. The strike protested the depth and extent of the cuts being imposed, as well as the deadlines the Greek government had to meet.

PAME, the union confederation associated with the Greek Communist Party (KKE), broke the ground for the general strike by leading a large march through Athens in a driving rain storm the night of Feb 9. Ilias Stamelos, a leader of PAME, condemned the new austerity measures as barbaric and called on the working class not only to drive out the parties in government but also to overthrow the class which is in power. (inter.kke.gr)

Feb. 10 strike even stronger

The strike on Feb. 10 was even more solid than the earlier one. Two major unions — GSEE, which represents workers in the private sector, and ADEDY, representing civil servants — marched on Syntagma Square, while PAME marched to the Ministry of Labor.

PAME workers occupied that building, and others hung a big banner on the outside of the ministry, reading: “No to the new massacre of the people, Down with the government, The Troika must go, Disengagement from the EU.”

There were also large rallies in Thessaloniki, Piraeus and other major cities throughout Greece.

The next day, Feb. 12, the unions held a big demonstration in Athens’ main Syntagma Square that encircled the Parliament building to try to prevent members from entering and approving the austerity plan.

Aleka Papariga, the general secretary of the Greek Communist Party, released this statement: “Even if the workers give their own flesh to pay off the debt, the savage bankruptcy will not be averted. Consequently, there is one solution: Disengagement from the EU and unilateral cancellation of the debt. This is the solution; anything else will constitute a tragedy for the workers.” (inter.kke.gr)

The two parties in the coalition government — PASOK and the New Democracy — have formally agreed to uphold this austerity plan after the upcoming elections, which could come as early as April. There is no guarantee they will win the election, according to some polls.

According to the Kathimerini newspaper, there is a sharp rise in support for left parties. Its early February polls show 12 percent supporting the Democratic Left, 12.5 percent supporting the Greek Communist Party and another 12 percent supporting the Coalition of the Radical Left. Greece’s Green party might also enter parliament for the first time, Later polls showed an even bigger leftward movement. □

PORTUGAL

# 300,000 protest austerity in Lisbon

Some 300,000 people marched through Lisbon, Portugal, on Feb. 11, called out by the union federation CGTP-IN to protest the attack by European and Portuguese big business and banking against Portugal’s 99%. Led by the working class, the Portuguese people came out to protest the program that would make jobs insecure, cut wages and vacation days, force workers to work Saturdays and impose other hardships.

According to the Marxist website, O dia-rio, the demonstration’s significance surpassed its ample size. “Workers from all sectors, all regions, all ages participated, both manual and intellectual workers, women, men, youth. With a relatively unusual feature:

“While the great mass of people moved through the streets of downtown Lisbon, the number of spectators on the sidewalks was very low. ... Nobody wanted to stay out of this massive demonstration; they were all participants.” (odiario.info, Feb. 12)

— John Catalinotto



PHOTO: PCP

The placard in the photo reads: “It’s no crime to struggle; Robbing the workers and the people is the crime.”



# Defend Syria against imperialism

**Workers World** has made its position clear again and again with regard to the recent events in Syria: no imperialist intervention! That means the U.S., Britain, France and all of NATO must keep hands off. It means “no” to intervention, whether or not NATO, the Arab League or the United Nations Security Council approves.

Workers World welcomes the decision of China and Russia to veto the resolution before the Security Council that would have opened the door to U.N.-backed intervention against Syria. Last March, such a resolution disguised as a means of protecting civilians in Libya led to the deaths of thousands of Libyans, and the destruction its infrastructure and its sovereign government.

Nassar Ibrahim of the Alternative Information Center wrote a thorough analysis on Feb. 9 in the article, “Syria: the Middle East’s tipping point.” It is worthwhile to excerpt some of his points here.

“The struggle for Syria isn’t just about Syria,” Ibrahim writes, “it’s the struggle for a free, democratic Middle East versus one that lives under the yoke of American and Israeli hegemony. ... [It] has a crucial significance from various strategic points of view. ...

“From the moment that the Arab League made the decision to suspend Syria’s membership, entailing a series of sanctions against the Syrian people, the clashes happening in Syria have moved to another level. This became even clearer with the second proposed U.N. resolution — calling for a democratic transition and for Bashar Al Assad to step down — which was stopped by Russia and China’s vetoes last Saturday for the second time in four months.

“There have been two attempts to prepare the ground for a military intervention — that the U.S., European and Arab countries would like to see and that 13 out of 15 U.N. Security Council members

voted for. Such fervor reminds one of the international climate before the war against Iraq began in 2003.

“With the recent developments, the façade has tumbled down disclosing the real goals hidden behind different masks, revealing that the slogans demanding freedom, democracy and human rights have been used as a battering-ram by the advocates for an intervention to break Syria. The objective seems clear: depriving the country of its role and the Syrian people of their will.”

The imperialists, writes Ibrahim, have two possible scenarios in Syria.

First, “to ride the wave of the Arab revolts, employing full force to overthrow Syria using a comprehensive political, psychological and media war, including the internationalization of the crisis and the call for an external intervention (like the one that occurred in Libya) to finally turn this NATO-hostile country into a satellite state. ...”

If this fails, to “sink Syria in a quagmire of destruction, exhausting its resources as state and society and, in doing so, erasing the gains of its historical role at the regional and international level. This would be achieved by fueling sectarian violence and by arming terrorist organizations and extremist groups.”

Ibrahim concludes with this point: “There is no room to be neutral or ambiguous in the face of this confrontation, and the duty of the resistance forces and the actors struggling for a democratic change across the Arab world — the actors that shouldn’t be forgotten — is, therefore, to evolve and protect Syria and the broader Middle East.” (See [alternativenews.org](http://alternativenews.org))

For the anti-war and anti-imperialist movement inside the U.S., there is a similar conclusion. We should do everything within our power to prevent and obstruct the intervention of the imperialists in Syria.

U.S., NATO, hands off Syria! □

# Bishops vs. women

What do 271 U.S. Catholic bishops want to do to nearly 70 million women of childbearing age in the U.S.? Deny them the right to free contraception, which would enable them to control their reproductive capacity and health.

The bishops, through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the political mouthpiece of the Catholic Church, are trying to do that under the guise of “religious freedom.”

What is wrong with this picture? Everything.

This controversy started in 2010 when the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act included coverage for birth control. The USCCB didn’t like that.

Then, in August 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a report, backed by scientific research, that free family planning is part of preventive health care for women. The study showed that the consequences of unintended pregnancies are much more costly for women’s health and the well-being of families — and for insurance companies to pay for — when compared with the cost of free contraception.

That enraged the bishops, even though polls show 98 percent of Catholic women use birth control at some point in their lives.

The bishops’ wrath exploded on Jan. 20, when President Barack Obama announced that all religious-affiliated institutions that serve the general population and receive federal and state funding must provide free birth control coverage in their health plans to all employees — though 335,000 churches and houses of worship are exempt. The bishops charged Obama with attacking religious liberty.

But is that a legitimate claim? Hardly. All institutions run by the Catholic Church — 7,000 grammar and high schools, 244 colleges and universities, 600 hospitals and 1,400 long-term health care facilities, and hundreds of charities that help 9 million people annually — employ and serve millions of non-Catholics. Catholic institutions are the largest nonprofit providers in each category. In 2009, one in six people received health care at Catholic hospitals.

On Feb. 10, President Obama an-

nounced a compromise to quell the uproar when Republican presidential hopefuls, Tea Partiers, fundamentalist Christians and Jews, and hard-right Republican congresspeople jumped on the USCCB bandwagon. The compromise allows access to contraceptives through insurance companies and is not mandated as part of health plans offered by religious institutions.

But that didn’t satisfy the bishops. The USCCB issued a stinging indictment of the compromise as being “a grave moral concern,” which is “unacceptable and must be corrected.” (New York Times, Feb. 12) Three lawsuits have already been filed against the birth control mandate, and the “Respect for Rights of Conscience Act” has 37 sponsors in the Senate. The act would exempt insurance providers and purchasers, regardless of religious affiliation, from having to cover services that are contrary to “religious beliefs or moral convictions.”

USCCB has expanded its war on women to oppose both abortion and family planning.

That’s religious tyranny. Isn’t that just the sort of totalitarianism right-wingers in the U.S. routinely accuse other governments of?

In contrast, 24 religious leaders, representing Protestant, Reform and Conservative Jewish, and Muslim faiths, issued a joint statement from the Religious Institute on Feb. 8 stating, “We respect individuals’ moral agency to make decisions about their sexuality and reproductive health without governmental interference or legal restriction.” And the public policy office of the United Methodist Church, which also runs hospitals and universities, applauded the mandate to cover contraception.

Birth control, family planning services, safe and legal abortion, and free universal health care should be among the guaranteed rights of every woman.

The fight for reproductive justice for all women and support for the struggles of women and families are an integral part of the struggles of the 99% to stop the cutbacks, givebacks and attacks on the workers and oppressed. Unity and solidarity will push back reaction and propel all struggles forward. □

## WW COMMENTARY

# Behind Chrysler’s Super Bowl hype, it’s half-pay time

By Martha Grevatt

*Grevatt has been a Chrysler worker for 24 years.*

A 30-second Super Bowl commercial, reaching more than 110 million viewers, costs about \$3.5 million. The next day commentators named the best and the worst ads. Chrysler’s “Halftime in America” ad, featuring Clint Eastwood, drew rave reviews.

The message was that “America” — meaning the United States — has been “sucker-punched,” but “we” are on a comeback. Detroit, and implicitly Chrysler, is living proof.

Facts paint a different picture.

In 2000 Detroit’s poverty rate was 26 percent; eight years later it had risen to 44 percent. From the 2000 census to the 2010 census, the population fell from 951,270 to 713,777. Schools are closing or operating with some 60 pupils in a classroom. The foreclosure rate in Detroit remains one of the highest in the country.

Governor Rick Snyder is threatening to impose an “emergency manager” — as he has in other Michigan towns with a Black

majority — who has the power to void union contracts, sell public assets and essentially assume dictatorial control over the city’s operations. Mayor Dave Bing even suggested some blighted neighborhoods be “mothballed.”

## Chrysler’s turnaround: on the backs of the workers

Chrysler’s turnaround has been achieved on the backs of the people who build its vehicles. Six plants have closed since 2007. The company’s entire U.S. workforce is at an all-time low of 23,000 hourly workers.

At one time the Dodge Main complex in Detroit employed tens of thousands of workers, the majority of them African American. Chrysler was once the largest private employer in the city of Detroit. Now only one of its assembly plants is located inside city limits; most plants are in the outlying suburbs, with a few in other states. The percentage of African-American workers has fallen from 70 to 30 percent.

The company plans to hire a few thousand in Detroit; Toledo, Ohio; and Belvidere, Ill. That’s a drop in the bucket. When

I was hired at Chrysler in 1987, my plant alone employed 3,300 workers. As people were replaced by robots, the workforce was cut by two-thirds. In 2010 that plant was closed in Twinsburg, Ohio. The demolition is going on as I write these lines.

Every one of Chrysler’s new “entry-level” workers will start at a pay rate roughly half that of “traditional” workers. By the end of the four-year contract with the United Auto Workers they will still make about \$10 an hour less. Eastwood should have said, “It’s half-pay time — in the United States.” Elsewhere in the Americas — in Mexico — Chrysler pays workers a fraction of what their U.S. counterparts make.

While Chrysler and Eastwood, a Republican, are saying the message was apolitical, many Republicans are complaining that the ad sent a partisan message. Their reasoning is that by echoing the same theme as President Barack Obama’s most recent State of the Union address — that the U.S. is on the road to recovery — the Chrysler ad is a veiled political endorsement. “I was, frankly, offended by it,” said Karl Rove, a Republican political

strategist and the senior advisor to President George W. Bush.

Rove took no offense at a blatantly racist Super Bowl ad by former Michigan Rep. Pete Hoekstra, who is challenging Sen. Debbie Stabenow in this year’s election. The ad shows an Asian woman speaking broken English, saying that Debbie “Spenditnow” is helping China by increasing the amount the U.S. borrows from Chinese lenders. “We take your jobs,” the ad concludes. Hoekstra reluctantly pulled the ad but is adamant that he has nothing to apologize for.

In fact it is the capitalist drive for profit, not China, that has created the crisis of unemployment in Michigan.

The two capitalist parties may be quarreling over whether Chrysler was trying to sell cars or trying to reelect the president who bailed them out — and forced UAW members to give up billions of dollars worth of wages and benefits in the process.

The people of Detroit, like the rest of the country, are realizing that it’s not Democrats versus Republicans — it’s us versus the 1%. □



# Libyans fight back against U.S.-NATO puppet regime

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Since the U.S.-NATO-engineered war began against Libya last March 19, a new push has begun aimed at recolonizing Africa through the machinations of various intelligence agencies, special forces and surrogate militias armed and trained by the imperialists. Regional insecurity has grown rapidly.

The bombing and war in Libya killed tens of thousands of people and displaced hundreds of thousands inside Libya and throughout the region, including many of the 2 million immigrant workers employed in Libyan construction, medical, service and oil industry jobs.

The war and the new regime assassinated many top officials of the government, including martyred leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi and several of his family members. Others have fled to neighboring states including Niger and Algeria.

**Al-Saadi Gadhafi speaks from Niger**

One of the late leader’s sons, Al-Saadi Gadhafi, was interviewed in Niger by Al-Arabiya satellite television on Feb. 13. Saadi noted the widespread disaffection and anger inside Libya resulting from worsening conditions of the majority of people since the overthrow.

Saadi acknowledged the ongoing resistance by loyalist forces in Libya. He predicted a general uprising soon aimed at the overthrow of the U.S.-NATO-backed rebel regime of the so-called National

Transitional Council. Forces loyal to the former government seized control of Bani Walid in January and have been launching attacks in the Nafusa Mountains, Benghazi and the capital, Tripoli.

Saadi told Al-Arabiya: “First of all, it is not going to be an uprising limited to some areas. It will cover all the regions of the Jamahiriya [the state of the masses]. I am following and witnessing this as it grows bigger by the day.”

Reflecting on the conditions facing Libyans one year after the Western-backed rebellion started, he said, “The Libyan people should revolt against the deteriorating situation. The NTC is not a legitimate body and is not in control of the militias.

“I have daily communications with Libya from Niger to follow up on the status of our tribes, our relatives and the people,” continued Saadi. “I can confirm that more than 70 percent of those who are in Libya now, whether they support the February 17th rebellion or not, all are not satisfied with the situation and are ready to cooperate to change it.”

The NTC rebel regime has demanded Niger extradite Saadi to Tripoli to stand trial. The Niger government has refused. As a result, relations between the the Niger government and the NTC regime have worsened in recent months.

Niger government spokesman Marou Amadou told a recent news conference: “We will hand over Saadi Gadhafi to a government which has an independent and impartial justice system. But we cannot hand over someone to a place where

he could face the death penalty or where he is not likely to have a trial worthy of the name.” (The Africa Report, Feb. 13)

**Aisha Gadhafi speaks from Algeria**

The slain Libyan leader’s daughter, Aisha Gadhafi, wrote a letter to the United Nations from Algeria through her lawyer. She demanded an international investigation into the circumstances surrounding her father’s and brother Mo’tassim’s deaths.

“These murders were witnessed by the whole world and have been roundly condemned by those who champion the rule of law. It is inconceivable, therefore, that the commission of inquiry should refuse to investigate these matters,” she wrote.

Aisha Gadhafi, a lawyer by profession herself, was part of a defense team that sought justice for the slain leader of Iraq, President Saddam Hussein. She had also requested an International Criminal Court investigation into Gadhafi’s death, but the ICC in The Hague, Netherlands, rejected this appeal.

**Human Rights violations continue**

Aisha Gadhafi has also attempted to submit information to the ICC related to the condition of her brother Seif al-Islam, who is being held illegally by the rebel NTC regime in Libya. Seif has had several fingers severed, and is not being allowed to see defense attorneys hired by the Gadhafi family.

NTC rebel leader Mustafa Abdul Jalil said Seif al-Islam is being interrogated,

and will be moved to a prison in Tripoli in order to stand trial within two months. (Reuters, Feb. 12)

The NTC, however, has established no viable legal system in Libya since it overthrew Libya’s sovereign government. The NTC does not even have control over its own officials and militias, who are fighting each other regularly.

Rebels have imprisoned more than 8,000 people, many of whom are Black Libyans and Africans from other countries. Even Human Rights Watch — an enemy of the Gadhafi government — has reported that Misrata rebels have looted and burned homes of the Tawergha people, who are dark-skinned Libyans driven from their villages in the central region into Tripoli. In the capital they are under constant attack by the NTC.

Despite the repeated claims by the Obama administration that the Libyan people have been “liberated” by the imperialist-backed war, the conditions for the majority of the population worsen every day. The war has created great turmoil and suffering throughout West and North Africa.

The lesson of the Libya war is a lesson regarding Syria, where U.S. and Gulf State-backed rebels are heavily armed in an effort aimed at regime change. Imperialism and its allies have never brought peace and security to oppressed nations. The only salvation for postcolonial states is the total recognition of their independence and sovereignty as free and liberated zones. □

# Army, Muslim Brotherhood, U.S. jockeying for Egypt rule

By **John Catalinotto**

Workers in some factories and students in the universities in Egypt held strikes on Feb. 11, one year after the revolution that forced President Hosni Mubarak out of office and shook the world. A week earlier massive protests held the Egyptian regime and the police responsible for the deaths of more than 70 people at a soccer match.

Meanwhile, the forces behind the current regime over the past year were in the news.

In control of the Egyptian state — of the repressive arm of the government — are the top officers making up the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF). The Army has run Egypt since the 1950s, and since the early 1970s many of the top officers have also accumulated wealth. They can be considered part of the Egyptian ruling class, the 1%.

In Parliament, the leading party is the Muslim Brotherhood, the best-organized force in the period right after last year’s revolution, which then won 37 percent of the vote and even more seats in last April’s elections.

Then there is U.S. imperialism, which supported the Mubarak regime for 30 years. The Obama administration distanced itself from Mubarak only after a heroic mass uprising and street fighting made it obvious that the former general was on the way out, barring a slaughter that might have split the army.

Washington’s policy has been to keep in power a stable Egyptian regime that keeps the country open for imperialist investment and maintains a nonaggression pact with Israel. The U.S. has given the Egyptian army \$1.3 billion in aid annually throughout this period to assure this policy.

Like 19th-century British imperialism, 21st-century U.S. imperialism has no permanent allies, only permanent interests. Through most of the past year U.S. impe-

rialism seemed to support SCAF. In the event that a mass uprising threatened to oust SCAF, Washington has also maneuvered where possible with all forces that might take office or power to ensure that Egypt continues its basic foreign and economic policy as under Mubarak.

**The alliance gets sticky**

The Egyptian general-capitalists are aware of this, so they took steps to try to prevent a Washington double-cross.

On Dec. 29, the Egyptian authorities arrested 43 people, including 16 U.S. citizens, who were agents of some nominally nongovernmental organizations. These included Freedom House, the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute — the last two associated with the Republican and Democratic parties, respectively — and all openly pro-

In solidarity with Dr Aafia Siddiqui, supporters packed New York’s Federal Court in Manhattan Feb. 10 to hear an appeal of the 39-year-old who was sentenced on Sept 23, 2010.

She has been held in total isolation at Carswell Federal Prison since her sentencing 18 months ago.

In March 2003, Dr. Siddiqui was kidnapped with her three young children in Karachi, Pakistan, and held in secret detention by U.S. forces at Bagram Prison in Afghanistan for five years.

She was charged with attempting to shoot U.S. interrogators in Afghanistan in 2008. No one was injured except Dr. Siddiqui, who was shot in the stomach, and no material evidence was found that she handled a gun.

Dr. Siddiqui was brought to New York for a highly publicized trial where the me-

imperialist organizations that intervene in foreign countries.

The NGOs’ role is to work with political activists outside the local government to make sure any political change favors U.S. interests. Separately or together, they helped organize “regime change” — that is, coups — in Serbia in 2000, in Haiti in 2004 and in Honduras in 2009. The IRI also helped organize an attempted coup in Venezuela in 2002 that blew up in its face when a mass uprising reversed it.

On Dec. 29, SCAF sent Washington a message: “Back off!” Among the 43 charged were 17 Egyptians and 10 non-U.S. foreigners, including two German citizens from the Konrad Adenauer Institute. This NGO is an organ of the Christian Democrats and thus of German imperialism.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta

dia labeled her a “terrorist.” Throughout the trial she continued to maintain that she was tortured and secretly held in Afghanistan. She has refused to accept her lawyers or the U.S. court’s right to try her.

Her case has wide international support, and in Pakistan she is considered a Daughter of the Nation. There is an international call for her repatriation to Pakistan. To sign a petition demanding her repatriation, visit [tinyurl.com/7dlmsgh](http://tinyurl.com/7dlmsgh).

— **Sara Flounders**



have warned SCAF that U.S. military aid could be frozen if the U.S. citizens are not released. A New York Times editorial Feb. 12 also scolded the generals. Egypt’s premier said: “Egypt will not kneel.” (Washington Post, Feb. 8)

That SCAF and Washington are at odds these days should fool no one into thinking the Egyptian generals have suddenly picked up the flag of Egyptian sovereignty and will defend Egypt’s workers and farmers. On the contrary, SCAF is using the incident to try to paint up all its opponents as tools of the U.S. and paint itself as nationalist.

Nor should anyone think that U.S. imperialism, after endorsing Mubarak’s 30 years of repression and rigged elections, is suddenly concerned with democracy or human rights. The Egyptian military is still essential to U.S. domination of the Middle East.

**Role of the Muslim Brotherhood**

The situation in Egypt remains fluid. When tens of thousands of people in Tahrir Square at the end of January demanded the military step down immediately, the Muslim Brotherhood — which had agreed to support SCAF’s control of the government until June — took on a new role, that of providing a human wall of its members to control the mass struggle. The people answered by chanting, “No Brotherhood, no officers. Down, down with military rule!” (New York Times, Jan. 31)

Ten days later, on Feb. 9, the Brotherhood demanded that the military rulers give up control of the regime. Many have noted that this stronger stand against the generals took place when SCAF is in conflict with Washington.

All these forces remain accountable to the Egyptian people, who continue to take to the streets and to exhibit political experience and understanding. □



## A través del mundo y en EE.UU., manifestantes exigen: ‘NO GUERRA EN IRÁN’

Por Deirdre Griswold

Muchas organizaciones antiguerra a través de Estados Unidos y en otros países se congregaron el 4 de febrero para protestar por las crecientes amenazas contra Irán. En más de 30 estados y 80 ciudades grandes y pequeñas de EE.UU. diversos grupos unieron sus fuerzas para exigir cuatro demandas fundamentales: ¡“No guerra, no sanciones, no intervención, no asesinatos”!

Entre los grupos participantes estaban la Coalición Nacional Unida Contra la Guerra, el Centro de Acción Internacional, No a la guerra contra Irán, la Campaña de Solidaridad con Irán (SI), la StopWarOnIranCampaign.org, el Comité de Amistad Iraní-americano, Answer y World Can't Wait.

Los medios corporativos han estado informando durante semanas que el régimen israelí preparaba un ataque contra Irán dirigido a dismantelar su programa nuclear. Sin embargo, incluso ex agentes de inteligencia estadounidenses señalan que el desarrollo nuclear de Irán es totalmente pacífico; no está construyendo armas nucleares. (Consulte “Divining the Truth About Iran” por Ray McGovern, commondreams.org, 2 de febrero)

Los alegatos totalmente infundados de que Irán es un peligro nuclear constituyen la base sobre la que Israel, que tiene un gran arsenal nuclear y ha sido armado y financiado por Estados Unidos, ha estado públicamente invocando su derecho a lanzar un ataque militar contra Irán.

El proceso ya había comenzado en los principales medios de comunicación corporativos para dar credibilidad a las acusaciones de Israel y suavizar la opinión pública para que acepte esta acción criminal que podría desatar otra devastadora guerra en esta región rica en petróleo tan codiciada por el imperialismo.

Los/as manifestantes marcharon en **NUEVA YORK** desde Times Square hasta la misión de Estados Unidos ante las Naciones Unidas y luego al consulado israelí. La agencia francesa de prensa AFP estimó que había 500 personas de muchas organizaciones. Además de las cuatro demandas principales oponiéndose a cualquier intervención, muchas pancartas y carteles hechos a mano también señalaron a Wall

Street y los bancos como los verdaderos enemigos del pueblo aquí, no Irán.

Kazem Azim, de La Campaña de Solidaridad con Irán (SI), dijo a Workers World/Mundo Obrero que la cuestión más importante eran las miles de amenazas de muerte que han tenido lugar en los últimos años contra científicos iraníes, representantes estatales y hasta ministros del Parlamento, por los que el pueblo iraní culpa a agentes israelíes y estadounidenses.

“Esto ha unido el pueblo iraní”, dijo Azim, “contra la intervención extranjera y la guerra. La guerra ya ha comenzado porque las sanciones son un acto de guerra. Incluso muchos quienes han sido opositores al Gobierno iraní ahora están viendo que su enemigo principal es el imperialismo norteamericano”.

En **LOS ÁNGELES**, unas 200 personas se reunieron en la intersección más transitada de la ciudad cercana al edificio federal de Wilshire. Los/as oradores/as incluyeron a representantes de la Unión de Iraníes Progresistas, del Comité de Solidaridad con el Pueblo de El Salvador, el grupo filipino BAYAN-USA, el grupo latino ALBA-USA, el Movimiento Pro Rescate del Pueblo, el Partido Workers World/Mundo Obrero, la Coalición sobre Inmigración del Sur de California, y el Centro de Acción Internacional. Personas que habían estado en un evento de Answer a varias cuerdas de distancia también se unieron a la manifestación principal.

Una protesta en **BUFFALO, N.Y.**, se celebró en el centro de la ciudad en Niagara Square, donde Ocupar Buffalo tenía un campamento antes de ser desalojado por la policía. Ocupar regresó a la plaza endosando la manifestación sobre Irán, llevando carteles que leían: “Esto no se ha terminado”. Otros adherentes incluyeron el Centro de Acción Internacional, Burning Books, el Centro por la Paz del Oeste de Nueva York y WNY Drilling Defense, un grupo que se opone a las poderosas corporaciones del gas y petróleo que contaminan aquí e incitan guerras en el exterior. La multitud apoyó firmemente el llama-

### NUEVA YORK— 4 de febrero



MO FOTO: BRENDA RYAN

mado de que Estados Unidos e Israel no intervengan en Siria al igual que en Irán y que respeten la soberanía de las naciones.

En **MILWAUKEE**, decenas de manifestantes del movimiento sindical y estudiantil y organizaciones comunitarias participaron en una rueda de prensa para decir ¡“no a la guerra contra Irán”! Luego marcharon gritando consignas “Trabajos sí, guerra no” a través de barrios donde la tasa de desempleo es alta. Otras protestas en Wisconsin tuvieron lugar en Green Bay, donde los/as manifestantes marcharon desde una intersección adyacente al Lambeau Field a una cercana estación de reclutamiento del ejército; en Madison en las escalinatas del Capitolio del Estado; y en Racine.

Cerca de 150 personas se reunieron en la Plaza Federal en **CHICAGO** y luego marcharon por el distrito comercial de la calle State. Miembras/os progresistas de la comunidad iraní de Chicago expresaron su oposición a la guerra genocida planeada por el imperialismo norteamericano contra su país. Muchas personas de Ocupar Chicago también llegaron a sumar sus voces.

Más de 100 personas ocuparon las cuatro esquinas de la intersección frente a la sede del noticiero CNN en el centro de **ATLANTA**, gritando consignas reflejando su oposición a las políticas belicosas de EE.UU. hacia Irán y sosteniendo pancartas y carteles declarando “ni guerra, ni intervención, ni sanciones, ni asesinatos”.

La protesta fue cubierta por las cuatro estaciones locales de televisión, por Prensa Asociada y por otros medios de comunicación. El grupo era una mezcla de jóvenes de Ocupar Atlanta, miembros de la comunidad iraní y activistas anti-guerra, y anti-imperialistas de la Coalición Paz y Justicia de Georgia de Atlanta, el Centro de Acción Internacional, Mujeres en Acción para Nuevas Direcciones y otras organizaciones. Se distribuyeron volantes disputando las mentiras sobre el programa de energía nuclear de Irán a los/as peatones.

En **BOSTON**, más de 300 personas marcharon por el centro hacia el consulado israelí. Iniciado por el Grupo Organizador de Acciones para la Paz de Ocupar Boston, había oradores de Boston UNAC, Veteranos por la Paz, el Centro de Acción Internacional, la Unión de Conductores de Autobuses Escolares de Boston, la Red de Mujeres en Lucha, Unidos por la Justicia con Paz, Acción por la Paz de Dorchester y muchos otros. Sahin, un gay iraní-estadounidense dijo “No se engañen

creyendo que el ejército estadounidense pudiera de alguna manera hacer la vida mejor para los gays iraníes”. Carteles de Ocupar por Empleos y del Partido WWP/PMO leían: “Necesito un trabajo, no una guerra contra Irán” y “La guerra hace al 1% más rico y al 99% más pobre”.

En **SAN FRANCISCO**, unos 600 activistas de una amplia coalición de organizaciones anti-intervencionistas, progresistas y comunitarias del Área de la Bahía marcharon para exigir ¡“No guerra contra Irán, no sanciones!” En un mitin en medio de la congestionada intersección de las calles Powell y Market hablaron el activista antiguerra de la Guerra de Vietnam, Daniel Ellsberg y la activista contra la guerra de Irak, Cindy Sheehan. Ellsberg dijo que una reciente encuesta israelí mostró que el 43 por ciento de la población allí está en contra de la intervención militar en Irán. Un animado contingente de activistas filipinos/as fue un punto culminante de la marcha hasta el Centro Cívico, donde tuvo lugar otro mitin. Un orador de Ocupar San Francisco dijo que el movimiento de Ocupar estaba totalmente opuesto a la intervención de Estados Unidos en Irán o en cualquier otra parte del mundo.

Miembros del Movimiento por la Paz de **JERSEY CITY, NJ** Acción 21, Ocupar Jersey City y Veteranos por la Paz marcharon alrededor del distrito comercial de la Avenida Central y hablaron frente a un gran supermercado. Todas las personas que encontraban apoyaban las demandas de “Ninguna guerra contra Irán”.

Otras ciudades con protestas fueron **Albany, N.Y.; Raleigh, Carolina del Norte; Washington, D.C.; Tampa, Florida;** así como **Filadelfia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Detroit, Minneapolis, Dallas, Houston, Tucson, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Salt Lake City, Seattle y Honolulu.**

Las manifestaciones fueron organizadas en sólo dos semanas, pero inspiraron protestas similares en otros países, entre ellos el Movimiento contra la Guerra y Ocupación en **Vancouver, Canadá;** otra en **Calgary, Canadá;** manifestaciones en **Bangladesh, India, Bretaña, Irlanda y Noruega;** y una protesta simbólica por ciudadanos/as estadounidenses que viven en Italia.

Gracias a Sara Flounders, John Parker, Ellie Dorritie, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Erich Struch, Dianne Mathiowetz, Frank Neisser, Judy Greenspan y Michael Kramer por la información contenida en este resumen. Puede encontrar más información en [www.iacenter.org](http://www.iacenter.org).

### FILADELFIA – 10 de febrero



MO FOTO: JOE PIETTE